(d) if not, whether Government also propose to take any initiative in this regard in near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) After the release of Dr. Rajkumar from captivity by Veerappan, the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka formulated a joint strategy for the purpose of nabbing Veerappan and requested Central Government for assistance of Para-Military Forces, weapons and equipments etc. which was provided. The two State Government reactivated the Special Task Force (STF) operations assisted by the Central Para-Military Forces, combined onslaught of the STF and BSF compelled Veerappan to run from his familiar territory to a new area namely Boluvampatti Reserved Forests in Coimbatore district and Walayar Reserved Forests in Palghat District of Kerala. The gang was sighted on 02.02.2001 upon which a brief encounter took place with the police party. Unable to withstand the police firing, Veerappan and his gang escaped into the forests leaving their personal belongings behind. Maran, who is the Chief of TNLA and a prominent member of Veerappan's gang was arrested by the STF on 15.02.2001 from a place called Seethaivanam in the Boluvampatti reserved Forests of Coimbatore district. According to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, combing operations are in progress by different search parties of the STF constituted to nab Veerappan.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Central Government to allow retention of the BSF Battalion provided by the Central Government for some more time along with services of helicopters, supply of equipments etc. Central Government has been providing all available assistance as sought by the State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from time to time and the latest requests are also being dealt with appropriately.

Ban on visits of foreign intellectuals

†*429. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently banned visits of scholars and intellectuals from foreign countries; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how long this restriction will continue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delhi Police efforts to take out dead bodies from Yamuna

†*430. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a net was used by the Delhi Police in the river Yamuna in order to take out the dead bodies from the river;

(b) if so, whether the said net was taken out by the Haryana Police;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Delhi Police had placed an iron net across the Western Yamuna Canal within the territorial limits of Haryana. This was removed by the local Haryana Police and in the course of informal discussions with the State Police officers concerned, officials of Delhi Police were informed that the net had to be removed as it obstructed the smooth flow of water in the Canal. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to pursue the matter further.

Development of Zardojee Kala Industry at Bareilly (U.P.)

†*431. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme worth four and half crores of rupees for the development of 'Zardojee Kala' industry for Bareilly district in Uttar Pradesh was under Central Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and by when it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir. However a project for setting up of 'Zari' Bhawan was received in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.